

# Burial Service



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**Burial Service**  
**OF THE**  
**Grand Lodge of**  
**Manitoba**

**A. F. & A. M.**



*Adopted August 1st, 1906*

*and*

*Published by Authority of the Grand Lodge*



# Grand Lodge of Manitoba

A. F. & A. M.



I Hereby Certify that the following pages are  
true copies of the Burial Service authorized by the  
Grand Lodge of Manitoba, A. F. & A. M.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "James A. Ouellet".

Grand Secretary

Grand Secretary's Office  
Winnipeg, November 26th, 1912





## BURIAL SERVICE

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Without a dispensation from the Grand Master, no Mason can be interred with the formalities of the fraternity unless he has been advanced to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, and at the time of his decease was a member of a Lodge and in good standing.

The Worshipful Master of the Lodge of which he was a member, having received notice of a brother's decease, and that it is the desire of his family or friends that he be interred with Masonic ceremonies, should summon the Lodge, and at his discretion, invite the members of other Lodges to attend.\*

The brethren should assemble in the Lodge room, and, at the appointed time, open a Lodge

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\* In case of the decease of a brother of a distant Lodge, where a Masonic funeral is desired, the Worshipful Master of the Lodge in whom the request is made, shall proceed in like manner as if the deceased had been a member of his own Lodge.

is the THIRD DEGREE, confining the following service to the Lodge room exclusively.\*

## LODGE SERVICE

**Worshipful Master.**—Brother Senior Warden, for what purpose are we assembled?

**Senior Warden.**—To honor the memory of our brother, whom death has taken from us, and to pay the last sad rites of mortality.

**Worshipful Master.**—Brother Junior Warden, what sentiments should inspire the souls of Masons on occasions like the present?

**Junior Warden.**—Calm sorrow for the absence of our brother who has gone before us; earnest solicitude for our own eternal welfare; and a firm faith and reliance upon the wisdom and goodness of the Great Architect of the Universe.

**Worshipful Master.**—Brethren, commending these sentiments to your earnest consideration, let us invoke the assistance of Almighty God in these our solemn ceremonies.

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\* After opening, the Lodge may be called off and the public admitted.

## PRAYER BY THE CHAPLAIN

Most Generous God, Grand Architect of the Universe, author of all good and giver of all mercy, pass down on us, we beseech Thee, Thy loving wings upon us, and grant that the necessity of the emergency may bind us not apart together in the ties of brotherly love. May the present instance of mortality forcibly reveal us a land not approaching and certainly distant and breaking out affectionate from the things of the world to things more desirable. In Thee may only our refuge in the hour of need, and grant, O God, that when the awful moment shall arrive for us to quit our transient Lodge on earth the light which is from above may dispel the gloomy darkness of death, and that departing hence with faith in our Redeemer, we may through Thy favor be admitted Thy celestial Lodge as high as paradise in peaceful communion with the souls of our departed brethren. The mysterious and unspeakable happiness of These everlasting kingdom. Amen.

Response—We thank Thee.

Worshipful Master—The days of our years are three score years and ten, and if by reason of strength they be four score years, yet is there strength labor and sorrow: for it so soon run off and we fly away.

Senior Warden. — "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down, he flieth also as a shadow and continueth not."

Junior Warden. — What man is he that liveth and shall not see death? Shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave?

Worshipful Master. — Thus saith the Lord "I will ransom them from the power of the grave. I will redeem them from death! O death, I will be thy plague! O grave, I will be thy destruction!"

Senior Warden. — Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

Junior Warden. — For he knoweth our frame, He remembereth we are dust.

Worshipful Master. — Oh! that my words were now written. Oh! that they were printed in a book, that they were graven with an iron pen and lead, in the rock forever, for I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth. And though, after my skin, worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

The brethren will then sing the Hymn on the two following pages, during the singing of

the first verse, the Junior Warden will leave his station, and extinguish the light in the south; in the second verse, the Senior Warden the light in the west; and in the third verse, the Worshipful Master the light in the east, remaining at their several positions until after the singing of the last verse, when they will resume their stations.

After singing, a eulogy may be delivered, or appropriate remarks made by the members in regard to the deceased, after which the Worshipful Master will continue

Worshipful Master. — Here we have no abiding place, even the places that now know us shall know us no more forever. I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth

Senior Warden. — Yea, with the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, and their works do follow them.

Junior Warden. — For we know if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Worshipful Master. — Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his. Let us pray.

## Days and Moments Quickly Flying



*mf* Days and moments quick-ly fly - ing,  
*mf* Mark we whither we are wend-ing.  
*p* As a shadow life is fleet-ing,  
*mp* Woe, that we our days may deem - ber,  
*mf* Soon be-fore the judge all glo-ri-ous,

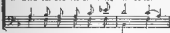


Speed on on ward to the dead,  
Fear - der how we soon must go.  
As a va - per so it flies,  
Strife and woe be with our ails,  
We with all the dead shall stand,





*p* O how soon shall we be ly - ing,  
*mf* To in - her it bliss un - end - ing,  
*p* For the by-gone years re - treat - ing,  
er Stay not in our work nor slum - ber,  
er Lord our God our death vic - to - ri - ous.



Each with - in his nar - row bed,  
Or e - ter - ni - ty of woe,  
Far - den grant and make us wise,  
Till thy ho - ly rest we win,  
Place us then on thy right hand.



Chapman: Your Father and I create the darkness and the light in Them are both sides. There has been lighted a light in Thy children, and that most precious gift that we have had. There Father, He did us the part. There have us with a Father's companionship as we have left our hearts to Them. There are our only refuge and strength our glory and confidence. There ground for a little while and then taken away. He lives as and down in the Father's hand, death opens and the separation of children and the heavy load of righteousness. There Father, let us see faith in The goodness he shows by his righteousness of The world, but a glimpse of the light of Father, is not good and a good and a the good, but performance of the world, look upon us as men, and a good and a good, but the little darkness we have been able to see, but the light of righteousness and truth, let the death of our Father's companionship, as we have the wisdom through that we have seen with past away, give us the knowledge. There, The grace that we may spend our fleeting hours in. The service and which is a precious moment, but we each have the service given. We have good and faithful service. And with Them be all the glory as it was in the beginning, is both and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Response: Be with it be



## MASONIC FUNERALS

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### Ceremonies to be Observed Going to and While at the Grave

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The Masonic ceremonies must take immediate precedence after the religious services. A Lodge shall not join with any Association or Society in the performance of funeral ceremonies.

The brethren should assemble at the Lodge room or some other suitable place, and at the appointed time promptly proceed to the home of the deceased in the following order, viz.

MASTER.

WARDENS.

TREASURER AND SECRETARY

PAST MASTERS.

CHAPLAIN.

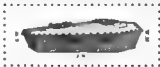
DEACONS.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES.

MEMBERS (TWO AND TWO).

TYLER.

On arriving at the house, the above order shall be reversed and continue as until the procession reaches the place of interment, when the brethren shall open ranks in the right and left, facing inward giving sufficient space to allow the funeral procession to pass between the open lines to the grave. The brethren will observe during the time the procession is passing through, and remain in their positions until the religious ceremonies at the grave have been concluded, when the Worshipful Master, followed by the officers and members of the Lodge, in the above order with closed ranks, shall proceed to the grave, the Worshipful Master taking his station at the head of the grave, the Senior Warden at the foot, and the Junior Warden at the side and left of the Worshipful Master. the members will then quietly form a square about the grave as in the following diagram:



The brethren being in position, the Worshipful Master, assisted by the Senior and Junior

Wardens will perform the following service\* in a deliberate and solemn manner being careful not to hurry it, and if possible, to have it fully committed to memory.

**Worshipful Master:** Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God in His wise Providence to take out of this world the soul of our deceased brother we have come to the performance of a duty which the dearest ties of friendship and love require, that of laying his body in the dust. As we mourn his departure let us sadly learn the lesson of our own mortality. How humbly he sustained the cares of life we can all attest, let us thereof be persuaded his memory and dwell on what was good and amiable in his character. That our brother was faithless can not be supposed, but he has now appeared before the Almighty Judge, let the silent voices of our hearts register only our brother's worth. Forgive us in that those best gone to meet thy God and man. He approves thee. May we be faithful, and when our end approaches may our eyes be closed in peace. Farewell! tell the Grand Supreme, thou brother may we rise and greet thee. Let us pray.

**Chaplain:** Almighty and Everlasting God, the Lord of Life and Death. Help us to approach

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\* This Service is for use only at a grave or vault and not elsewhere.

There with profound reverence and with a humble sense of our helplessness and dependence. Standing in the presence of death, we feel and acknowledge how frail and uncertain our own reasonings—and whole we stand. There for the sake of our brethren whose body we commit to the earth we devoutly beseech Thee to quicken us who are still in our pilgrimage, and teach us so to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. Whatsoever our liquid English words may be do it with all our might, knowing that there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom in the grave whither we go. Inspire us in such trust as feel and such measure of that charity which representeth not inequality, but representeth in the truth, that we may receive Thy commendation. Let Thy fatherly care and protection be over those who are bereaved. Remember them, O Lord, in mercy and supply us their wants. Let Thy blessing rest upon us in the performance of this memorial duty. Comfort us with a sense of Thy goodness, stir up Thy grace within upon us, and give us that peace which this world can give thee give not take away. Heavenly Father, pardon our sins, be our strength in weakness, our light in darkness, and our life in death. AMEN

Response by the Brethren: Glory be to God on High. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen. So mote it be.

Worshipful Master - This scroll, on which is inscribed the name of our departed brother, I now deposit in his grave. (Insert the scroll in the grave.) He has passed away never more to return. Let us hope that his name is registered in the Book of Life.

This Lashoken, or white brethren apron, is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Freemason. It is more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle, more honorable than the Star and Charter, or any order instituted by man. This emblem I now deposit in the grave of our deceased brother. (Insert it in the grave.) By this we are reminded of the universal dominion of death. The arm of friendship cannot resist the King of terrors, nor the charms of innocence evade his grasp. This grave—that coffin—this circle of mourning friends, remind us that we too are mortal, and soon our bodies will moulder in the grave. (The Worshipful Master holds up a white or Eucharistic.) This eucharist is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded of our high and glorious destiny beyond the world of shadows, and that there dwells within our tabernacle of clay an imperishable and immortal spirit which the grave shall never receive and over which death has no dominion.

The W. M. raises his hand to his left breast and then extending it, palm downwards over the grave, deposits the sprig of evergreen. He then re-raises his right hand over his head, pointing to the sky, and drops it by his side. The brethren pass round the grave and deposit their evergreens with the same sign as the W. M., but without stopping.

While this is being done the Master or chair may sing the following hymn:

Deep sorrow now pervades each heart;  
With grief our bosoms swell,  
A brother from our land departs,  
In that new home to dwell,  
No more in our loved Lodge again  
Shall we our brother meet,  
But in that Lodge that's free from pain,  
Shall we our lost one greet.  
Here rest in peace thy labour o'er  
Our brother we resign  
Till the Grand Master's word restore  
To light and life divine.

When the brethren have returned to their positions, the following invocations shall be made by the Worshipful Master:

Worshipful Master: May we be true and faithful, and may we live and die in love.

Response: So mote it be.

**Worshipful Master.**—May we profess what is good, and always act agreeably to our professions.

**Response.**—So mote it be.

**Worshipful Master.**—May the Lord bless and prosper us, and may all our good intentions be crowned with success.

**Response.**—So mote it be.

**Worshipful Master.**—Glory be to God on High.

**Response.**—As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. So mote it be.

**Worshipful Master.**—May Almighty God, of His infinite goodness at the great tribunal of unerring justice, extend His mercy towards all of us, and crown our hope with everlasting bliss in realms of a boundless eternity. Thus we beg for the honor of His name to Whom be glory now and forever.

**Response.**—Amen. So mote it be.

The procession will then re-form in the first order, and return to the Lodge room, where, when the proper forms are gone through, the Worshipful Master will address the brethren on the proceedings of the day, and the Lodge will be closed.











